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MESSAGE

of

Governor J. Hugo Aronson

to the

Thirty-fifth Legislative Assembly

of the

STATE OF MONTANA

1957

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3 STATE PUBLISHING CO., HELENA, MONT.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Thirty-fifth Legislative Assembly:

As I appear before this Legislature for the third time in my capacity as Governor, I am confident and optimistic about Montana's future. Our state has just finished two years of favorable development. We have had our finest period in history.

In March, 1955, the Thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly went home leaving what I determined to be a balanced budget. There were some who thought it was unbalanced. My calculations were correct. There will be a cash balance on next July 1.

The State Treasurer's office reports a balance in the General Fund of $4,802,784 as of December 31, 1956.

The requests for appropriations in the budget, show greatly increased demands. Montana's history shows that some departments always demand more than they expect or have ever received.

The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Claims Committee should carefully examine every request for an appropriation. When this Legislature adjourns, we must have a balanced budget as the Constitution requires.

As we view Montana, there is much to be proud of. God has been generous in His gifts to us. For our natural resources and special Blessings of Providence we must be humbly grateful. But we must use these resources wisely. To you, the chosen representatives of all the people of Montana, comes the duty of establishing the rules for that use. We must demonstrate teamwork to accomplish the most good for our great State. The greatest wealth and most valuable asset is our people. What we do here in this session should be for the good of our people and the future generations of Montana.

Montana is on the go, but we must have a favorable political and economic climate to keep and attract development. This benefits us all and creates a wider tax base. A *cooperative* effort by this Legislature will do much to demonstrate a favorable political climate. In studying ways and means of providing funds for state

services, we must remember that a favorable economic climate is equally necessary for development. In my opinion, confiscatory taxes will delay development and spoil opportunities for better jobs at higher pay for more Montanans.

Montana is growing rapidly. We should have a population of one million within ten years. We must be careful not to get Montana out of balance on any type of legislation affecting labor and industry, if we desire and expect new industry to come to Montana. Both political party platforms favor new industry. It is our job to make Montana attractive for industrial growth. At the same time we must see that the laws of the State provide properly for both our present and future population. Without giving any unfair advantage to any segment of our economy, we must encourage the proper and full development of our resources.

I *do not* intend to try to detail to you each item that I think must be accomplished. I *do* intend to discuss many items that need your attention. You are welcome to use every facility of every State department in obtaining facts, suggestions and ideas.

You should definitely re-examine present expenditures in all departments. I am sure you will agree that we are not getting full value for the dollars we are now spending. Surely we, as Montanans, can furnish better services for less money. You may want to borrow a few of the methods and ideas presently used in industry.

Another source of revenue not exhausted or properly examined is the tremendous drain on the State economy by federal agencies. A concerted effort by all states would result in economics at the federal level. These would not impair federal programs, but the states would get some relief.

State governments generally are in a very difficult position on taxation, for two reasons:

First, the taxation of property generally has been reserved for local sub-divisions;

Second, the income tax, the other major revenue source, is almost completely controlled by the federal government.

Therefore, state revenues must be derived from a second tax on property, a second tax on income, so-called sin taxes covering the use of alcohol and tobacco, and privilege taxes in the form of franchise or license.

I have always opposed a sales tax, as have most of you. I still *hope* it can be avoided. But if we are to avoid a sales tax in

Montana, appropriations must be kept within the anticipated revenues. The State, like its citizens, must live within its income. A *reasonable* amount of additional revenue is available without a sales tax. I refer you to the State Board of Equalization for details.

Therefore, if you approve appropriations which exceed anticipated income, you may have to consider a sales tax to provide additional revenue. In other words, if your anticipated revenues do not permit adequate financing of our schools and other State responsibilities, then a sales tax may be your last resort.

Education and taxation are inseparable. Both must be kept in mind when proposals concerning either one are studied.

The requests for appropriations are primarily demands for the elementary and secondary schools and the University system. These are caused by increased costs and enrollment. Additional tax money may be necessary. If so, you may be *forced* to consider a sales tax.

If you think we need a sales tax to finance the schools, I recommend that it be a replacement tax, first, to relieve the excess burden on property. The six-mill levy on property for University purposes may have to be ten mills or more. It should be eliminated.

It is still my hope that you will be able to balance the budget without having to go to any new tax sources.

I realize that I am putting this problem to you in a negative fashion. However, it seems to me that we are in the position of a trapper in a cabin in the dead of winter with wolves howling outside. His cabin catches fire. He has a choice of putting out the fire with what he has in the cabin, or going out into the bitter cold to face the wolves. This may well be the trapper's *only* choice, just as *your* only choice may be the sales tax. But let's *try* to put out the fire first with what is available.

BUDGET

The size and scope of this Assembly's problem is probably best reflected by the report of the State Controller on the budget.

Total requests from all state departments for the next biennium are $90,404,000. The total revenue is apparently $57,051,000.

Requests from the General Fund alone are $81,768,000. The State Board of Equalization estimates the total revenue to the General Fund for the next two-year period at $47,693,000.

This difference of 34 million dollars between requests and revenue is what prompts my statement that you must definitely re-examine present spending in all departments and carefully examine all requests for appropriations, *before* looking for new revenue sources.

SCHOOLS

In financing the school foundation program, certain basic facts must be kept in mind. The Income and Interest Fund is a true State aid. It comes from State holdings and is not a direct tax on the individual.

The same cannot be said of the School Equalization Fund. The source of this revenue is a percentage of the State Income Tax, a percentage of the Corporation license tax, a general fund appropriation, and U. S. oil and gas royalties. All of these are direct and indirect taxes on the ultimate consumer, with the exception of U. S. oil and gas royalties.

When we talk about the counties' share or the State's share of the School costs, we are actually talking about State and county taxes collected from the same taxpayer. If on the county level, this burden is on property owners only. If on a State level, this burden is on all taxpayers.

Increased taxation will be bearable only if the entire burden is properly equalized. An example of this will occur when the present six-mill levy for University purposes comes up for reconsideration at this session. The demand will definitely increase to a possible ten mills or more. If enacted, this will further distort the present excessive burden on property owners.

If transferred to a general State source of revenue, this obligation would reduce the present excess on property. It would also help equalize the general tax burden by transferring it to all Montana taxpayers.

Therefore, two major educational problems posed for this Assembly are:

First, how to finance the University system, both as to amount and as to source of revenue?

Second, to what extent shall the State share in the School Equalization Fund for primary and secondary education?

Available funds, other State requirements, and possible new revenue sources will require your consideration. Also, you must

always keep in mind the proper division of this burden among the individual taxpayers.

I firmly believe that every Montanan can be proud to send his or her children to our elementary and high schools and to the University System. Contrary to the thinking of many, I think they compare favorably with any in the nation. Our teachers, administrators, and school boards are of high caliber and doing a generally excellent job.

TAX STUDY

The tax problem is a complicated one. Mere stop-gap legislation has a tendency to compound past mistakes and further distort the existing inequities. Because of this, I suggest that an interim tax study group from all sections of Montana's economy be appointed to work with the State Board of Equalization. This would help develop a balanced tax program for the State. I refer you to the Board of Equalization report for details and suggestions.

HIGHWAYS

We have made great strides forward in our highway program. We are now embarking on an even greater program. The huge Federal Interstate Highway program will have a terrific impact on the nation and on Montana. The Highway Commission and its staff has done an outstanding job. It will be called upon for even greater efforts in the years to come.

The Highway Fact Finding Committee, set up by the Thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly, together with the Highway Research Council, has devoted much time and effort to an exhaustive study of each class of roads and streets. The materials assembled demonstrate an excellent job. The Committee, the Council and its staff, as well as the Highway Commission and its staff, are to be complimented for a job well done.

I *do not* mean that the job is all done by any means. In fact, it is just started. But we have some excellent basic materials to work with. I strongly recommend that you continue the interim committee technique to solve the many complex problems.

I refer you to the reports of these committees for full details. Here are a few highlights that deserve action. Some of the recommendations are far-reaching and will require your closest study. Basically, however, the facts upon which the conclusions and recommendations are made have been thoroughly researched.

Financially, the most important recommendations are:

(1) The seven-cent gasoline and nine-cent diesel per gallon taxes be continued on a permanent basis.

(2) Commercial vehicle weight taxes be increased in certain categories.

(3) All passenger car registration fees be set at ten dollars per year.

(4) Fuel tax collection and refund procedures be reviewed.

(5) Bond financing be reconsidered for both the present backlogs of federal aid financing and future long-range planning. In this connection I ask your closest study before such financing is approved.

In regard to highway management procedures, the most important suggestions are:

(1) Remedial legislation to provide for up-to-date right-of-way acquisition and controlled access legislation. This legislation also contemplates simplification in condemnation and abandonment procedures. It will seek jurisdiction so municipal bodies can participate with the State, in obtaining and spending federal aid funds.

(2) Adjustments should be made in apportionment of funds to financial districts. We need an allocation formula more nearly in line with the highway needs of each district. The Highway Commission also needs authority to allocate State matching funds in the secondary system for specific emergency bridge construction. This must be possible in advance of financial district allocations, as is now possible in the primary system. Also, the allocation principle should be extended to cover the interstate system along with the primary, secondary and urban systems.

(3) Consideration be given the establishment of a State Aid division in the Highway Department. The specific purpose would be to aid local units in road and street problems, promote long-range planning at local levels, and establish procedures for financial aid to coordinated local programs.

The Fact Finding Committee also recommends that a Motor Vehicle Department be established. This would help coordinate such activities as vehicle registration and titles, operator's licenses, commercial vehicle taxation, motor fuel taxes, highway patrol and similar activities. The activities are now handled by the Prison

Warden, Highway Commission, Railroad Commission, Board of Equalization and County Treasurers.

The Fact Finding Committee believes a coordinated Motor Vehicle Department would regulate the moving vehicle in all ways, tighten revenue control, be a convenience to the public, and contribute to highway safety. Such a plan requires your careful consideration.

One obvious fear expressed immediately by Deer Lodge residents is that this would cause the separation of the Motor Vehicle Department from the Prison and a moving to Helena of the department.

This should not enter into your consideration in my opinion. This function of Motor Vehicle Registration can be carried on in Deer Lodge, as always, without jeopardizing efficiency to any appreciable extent. I recommend that this function be left in Deer Lodge, if the plan is carried out.

The separation of the Motor Vehicle Department from the Prison would not affect the Prison work and rehabilitation program to any great extent. Instead, it would occasion some additional appropriations to adequately equip the Prison administration due to coordinated use of some materials.

I have devoted considerable discussion to the highway problem. This is partly because of the vast new program we are in and also because of the tremendous amount of factual materials made available by the Fact Finding Committee and the Research Council. Their reports are worthy of thorough study.

STATE ADVERTISING

The advertising program of the Highway Commission has been getting good results, but costs are rising in this highly competitive field. An increased advertising budget is required to keep pace in the tourist business.

Experience has shown that an increased budget will pay for itself in gasoline taxes from tourists alone. In addition, we must recognize the increased benefits to our businesses and services based on tourist trade, our third largest industry.

As you know, the cost of this advertising program is paid from highway funds. Any increase will require an amendment to the 1955 Act limiting the amount of highway funds which may be used for advertising purposes.

STATE PARKS

With the limited funds at its disposal, the Highway Commission has made an outstanding performance. However, it is falling far short of meeting current demands in the recreation and tourist fields. The phenomenal increase in demand for picnic areas, roadside parks, recreational areas, preservation of historical, scientific and archeologic sites is apparent to all.

Montana's recreational resources must be conserved now and wisely developed. Therefore, I recommend that the Highway Commission's Park Division be provided with an adequate budget to carry out the required tasks.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

The traffic hazard is an increasing menace to our society. In 1956 an all-time record number of 266 were killed on Montana's streets and highways. The tragic loss of life is grim. The economic loss, computed on the basis of 120 thousand dollars per fatal accident, is over thirty million dollars.

The Highway Patrol stepped up its enforcement activities by making over 26,000 arrests in 1956. This is 5,000 more than in any previous year and compares to 8,873 arrests in 1952. Yet, with such a fine record of enforcement, it is evident that enforcement activities *alone* will not guarantee safe highways.

Equally important is public awareness and support. A newly-organized citizens' committee, the Montana Council for Traffic Safety, will need the support of every citizen in the State before any measure of success in accident prevention can be realized.

Recent surveys show that the Highway Patrol is undermanned. A minimum of thirty additional traffic men in the next fiscal year and an additional thirty the following year must be provided. In addition, I urge that the emergency speed limit of 65 miles per hour be made the statutory speed limit.

I also solicit your consideration of an amendment to include standards for determining the intoxication of persons driving with certain blood alcohol levels. Additional equipment, including radar, is a must, too.

Experience has shown that these items will not be an additional burden on the taxpayers. The income from stepped-up enforcement, through driver's license collections, fines, forfeitures and

other items, more than offsets the cost, in addition to creating increased highway safety.

STATE FORESTS

The State Forester has developed a long-range forestry program based on factual and scientific information, in line with the same conservation principles as our State Parks. This will foster the production of the greatest possible wealth from Montana's forest lands in the form of forest products, abundant useable water and recreation areas.

Through proper forest management and maintenance of soil and watershed values, the highest volume of mature crops may be harvested in the shortest time. An inventory is the foundation of good forest management. The forest inventory on state lands, begun in the last biennium, should be completed.

A new threat to our forests, in addition to fire, is the Spruce Budworm. It is presently ruining three and one-half million acres of forest land in our State. All forest agencies are working to control this pest. The responsibility of the State and of private landowners to control this pest needs clearing up.

In addition, the Cooperative Forest Management program, giving technical assistance to the small forest landowner, should be encouraged.

COLUMBIA COMPACT

The Columbia River Compact Commission has worked hard to find an equitable solution to the difficult problem of that river. Recently such a compact was approved by the Commission. It is ready for submission to this Legislative session for approval. Montana has done an excellent job of protecting its rights and in arriving at this compact. I strongly urge your approval.

Consideration should again be given to an underground water code. The splendid work of the Water Conservation Board should be continued.

Legislative approval is necessary before an agreement reached between the farmers of Alberta, Canada, and the farmers of Montana for the use of water from Sage Creek can be approved.

Our State Department insists that approval of the State of Montana be obtained before construction work on the project in Canada can be started. The State Engineer is authorized to negotiate contracts with other states, but not with a foreign province

or country. Suitable legislation will be offered for your approval to permit this long-delayed project to become a reality.

Other recommendations of the Water Board, for your consideration, will be found in the Biennial Report of the State Engineer. One particular function of the Water Board, that of the State Planning Board, which was activated by the last Assembly, has shown remarkable progress. It is difficult to measure the success of such an activity.

I *am* confident that the Planning Board work, together with the work of the Water Pollution Council in the Board of Health, has much to do with the announcement of two new paper pulp industries, as well as other industrial devlopment. This work should continue.

AGRICULTURE

Montana's agriculture needs expanded research to improve quality, to increase production know-how, and to increase marketing knowledge. Present facilities are not sufficient, and State funds are not likely to be available. The wheat industry's need for quality improvement is critical at this time, if Montana is to maintain its reputation as a producer of quality wheat.

To help satisfy these needs of agriculture, I urge you to pass enabling legislation so commodity groups can supply funds to help themselves. A Commodity Commission has been suggested by the Montana Grain Growers' Association to accomplish these purposes. I submit the proposal for your study.

LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

The Brucellosis eradication program of the Livestock Commission has progressed. More than thirty counties have been certified as free of brucellosis. Of some 750 thousand dollars spent on this program in two years, less than ten per cent has come from the General Fund. However, to accomplish this, the Commission has depleted its reserves and increased the livestock millage levy. About two dollars of federal money has been used to every State dollar.

To accomplish the goal of brucellosis eradication, a larger State appropriation will be required this year to maintain a desirable testing program.

Consideration might also be given to completion of the State Laboratory building as originally planned and authorized.

FISH AND GAME

Efforts by the Thirty-fourth Assembly to recodify the Fish and Game laws were successful. Some of the pressing problems of over-abundance of game animals in farming areas have been solved. However, increased hunting and fishing activities and increased pressures on wildlife resources will require constant attention.

INSTITUTIONS

All State institutions have shown improvements in both physical plants and care and treatment. I again invite Legislative Committees to visit each institution. We have an increasingly difficult time in getting and keeping trained staffs. This is particularly true of the hospitals.

New building programs at Boulder and Warm Springs have progressed. It is interesting to note that the patient population at the State Hospital has decreased, due mainly to the use of newly-developed drugs. Another interesting decrease in population is noted at the Prison. This is due to the new parole laws passed by the last Legislature.

The Industrial School has made good progress. The Vocational School for Girls is in need of more facilities, both for school purposes and for disciplinary control. I am pleased at the sound operations of the Orphans' Home, the State School for the Deaf and Blind, the Soldiers' Home, the Home for the Aged and the Tuberculosis Sanitarium. Each of these institutions will present to you their needs to maintain and improve themselves.

I wish to report separately on the State Prison and the Newly-formed Pardon Board. The Prison farm operation is progressing in excellent fashion. Work programs for rehabilitation have produced excellent crops. The building program at the Prison is going ahead at minimum costs, but maximum effort. The Prison proper could use more work for inside the walls. Appropriation requests for materials for refinishing State-owned furniture and equipment should be approved.

The Pardon Board has worn its new pair of shoes in admirable fashion. The new program has decreased the Prison population from 681 in November 1954 to 604 in November 1956. By and large, many men and women have been successfully returned to society earlier than before.

There have been some failures, but the percentage of fail-

ures is *far below* the national average. The Pardon Board staff of three parole supervisors is not large enough to do an adequate job.

Actually, the Board has not been able to accomplish much more than the parole activity. The program has proven itself well worthwhile and an important advance in control and treatment of criminals. I am confident that your inquiries will convince you that a larger budget and staff is necessary to do a good job. The benefit to the State is great. The costs are more than made up in productive citizens, savings in welfare to families and other items.

CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY

Another Interim Committee report, that of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee, created by the Thirty-fourth Assembly, deserves your attention. This committee has done an admirable job of studying the laws of Montana pertaining to the welfare of delinquent, dependent and neglected children and of recommending suitable corrective legislation.

The committee recognizes that more work needs to be done in this field, but I submit to you, approvingly, their entire report. Their recommendations seem to me to be practical and necessary. I commend this committee of public-spirited citizens for a fine effort for the youth of Montana—our most precious resource.

NATIONAL GUARD

The last Assembly provided enabling legislation allowing Montana to participate with the federal government on a twenty-five per cent State—seventy-five per cent Federal basis in armory construction. Under this program armories were built at Kalispell, Billings, Miles City, Glendive and Sidney. Armories at Dillon, Hamilton, Plentywood, Whitefish and Chinook are planned. I urge your approval of funds to continue this National Guard program.

OIL AND GAS

Conservation is not a restriction on the uses of petroleum. It is the sound, well-balanced application of engineering and geological sciences directed toward the maximum ultimate recovery of oil from our reservoirs. In this light, the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is primarily a technical body working for the benefit of our people. It is believed that still-greater benefits can be

obtained by enlarging the scope of the Commission's activities in the scientific field of petroleum engineering and geology.

For the past two years, the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology has operated a well core and cutting field station at Billings. I recommend that this station and its personnel be merged with the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. This would relieve the General Fund of the cost of station operation, as the Commission can finance its operations from its present income. This is derived wholly from the oil industry. A deficiency request for completion of the station from the General Fund will be required, however.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The State should continue toward the goal of an adequate Workmen's Compensation Act. This would afford sufficient income to workmen injured on the job and to their families during this time of need.

While the last two sessions have increased the benefits materially, the weekly compensation to a man with several children is not enough. The cost of hospitalization and medical care continues to rise. Therefore, the present dollar limit in the Act causes a part of the hospital and doctor bill to burden the badly-injured man.

I recommend a general increase in weekly compensation benefits to the injured workman, particularly one who has many children. This should be an amount sufficient to provide him with the basic necessities of life while he is disabled. I also recommend an increase in the amounts for medical care.

I further suggest that an industrial disease law be enacted. Such a law should be fair and reasonable to all parties. It should not, in any way, injure the present workmen. The administration of it should come under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Improvement in the Unemployment Insurance Law is necessary. Benefits must be increased. The Unemployment Compensation Commission will have other proposals for your consideration to strengthen the program.

LIQUOR

The importance of the State liquor monopoly as a source of General Fund revenue cannot be over-emphasized. In the fiscal

year ended June 30, 1956 the monopoly system accounted for net general fund revenue of $6,032,434 or 26.3 per cent of the total General Fund revenues.

The experience of the Liquor Control Board shows that the laws covering maximum salaries of its personnel must be relaxed, if efficiency and profits are to be maintained at a high level. It is very difficult and, in some cases impossible, to obtain the services under the present restrictions. I recommend that the pay scale be reviewed and a general increase be made.

VETERANS BONUS

Recognition of our Korean War Veterans in the same manner we recognized the veterans of World War II is in order. It is doubly important now, while the existing machinery is available to handle this job, without further burden on the State.

At the present time collections to retire the present bonus bonds are more than the amount needed to retire this type of bond. We feel certain that the Bonding Company would consider a further issue to take care of Korean Veterans without an increase in the present tax. If such renegotiation is not possible, then new legislation should be considered to provide this recognition.

CAPITOL RENOVATION

It was the hope and plan of the Board of Examiners that this Assembly would be greeted with improvements in the Capitol Building. However, an unexpected difficulty in financing the work from Capitol Land Grant funds occurred. The Supreme Court held that renovation or repair to the existing structure could not be paid from this fund. Frankly, we were all amazed at this set-back. It appears now that funds will have to be appropriated by this Assembly to continue much needed improvements.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Due to increased activities in oil, uranium and other fields, correction of glaring deficiencies in the Blue Sky laws is needed. The State requires the power to protect the public through its investment laws.

Two years ago I vetoed a bill authorizing special license plates for licensed amateur radio operators. For several reasons, including the valuable services offered and rendered in Civil Defense, law

enforcement, rescues and the like, I now urge you to authorize an Amateur Radio Operator's license plate.

Montana insurance experience in recent years convincingly demonstrates that our State's insurance code is antiquated and outmoded. Portions of it have been on our statute books for over half a century. It is no longer adequate for the protection of our people and the efficient and effective regulation of the insurance business. In my judgment, a complete revision and recodification of the Montana Insurance Laws is needed and would be in the public interest.

I recommend that this Assembly enact enabling legislation directing the preparation, under the supervision of the Commissioner of Insurance, of a revision and recodification of the Montana Insurance laws for submission to the Thirty-sixth Legislative Assembly. I also recommend that sufficient funds be appropriated to defray the expense of such an undertaking.

I call your attention also the Real Estate laws. A need for tightening of these laws is apparent. Out-of-state pseudo-real estate agents are soliciting advertising and listings of Montana real estate. Such practices have caused the loss of many thousands of dollars to Montana residents. Legislation to correct the present deficiencies should be passed.

FIVE-DAY WEEK

For your consideration I suggest that a five-day week be established for state, county and municipal offices by changing the requirements for office hours. The present 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on week days and 9 A.M. to 12 noon on Saturdays would be changed to 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. schedule, Mondays through Fridays.

In effect, this change would require two more hours of office time per week than is presently required, but I believe this would be more effective. If you deem this change advisable, you should also adjust the present vacation time of one and one-quarter days per month. Then holiday periods would not extend through three work weeks and four week-ends, as would otherwise be possible.

Presently, the schools, federal government offices and many businesses and professions are operating on a five-day week. Therefore, I believe that it is advisable for this Assembly to establish such a week in state, county and municipal offices.

VOTING

It is desirable to extend to the spouses and dependents of members of the armed services on active service the right to use the Federal post card application for ballot, when absent from their place of voting. These spouses and dependents are a part of the defense team and deserve this privilege. It is desirable to extend to federal employees working overseas the right to also use the Federal post card application, as they are part of our cold war fighting team.

I urge you to permit the Federal post card application to be used as a "Registration Card". Presently, the requirement of requesting a registration card is a deterrent to voting by members of the armed forces. These are the recommendations applicable to us in Montana found in the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955. They were enacted bi-partisanly by the United States Congress, and are designed to bring about more effective voting by members of our defense forces.

OTHER BOARDS

I have not mentioned numerous other State boards, commissions and functions; not that they are less important or doing lesser jobs. They are getting along fine without any particular pressing problems.

Let us not waste valuable time on proposed legislation which we know has no merit and no chance for final passage. I shall use my own best judgment in gauging my actions on the bills sent to my desk. I will continue to do what I think is best for all of Montana. Let us not shirk our responsibilities. Let us be fair to all. Most important, let us operate within our income with a balanced budget. We must provide a climate for progress. By cooperative effort we will succeed.